

INTERAGENCY ON AUTISM (ICA)

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2018

In attendance: Brian Freedman (CDS), Brittany Powers (CDS), Kellene Copeland (CDS), Susan Veenema (CDS), Richard Lytton (CDS), Kara Downey (CDS), Annalisa Ekbladh (Autism DE), Brian Hall (Autism DE), Heidi Mizell (Autism DE), Dafne Carnright (Autism DE), Dawn Maloney (parent), Laura Dewey (Nemours), Meredith Tavani (PBH), HarrietAnn Litwin (DVR), Shebra Hall (DHSS-B23), Ann Phillips (DE Family Voices), Dorothy Prior (DDDS)

1. Exciting Community Updates

- Swank Autism Center is open- Emily Bernabe will be the new clinical director
- Brian Hall is the executive director of Autism Delaware
- Outside the Box conference is coming up (Oct 5/6)- great speakers, in Wilmington this year
- Autism Delaware Bluejean Ball

2. Family Needs Report

- Parent Contacts
 - Past quarter: 1100 total family contacts; 199 new family contacts; 154 were Spanish speaking
 - First time Autism DE had more parent contacts in Kent and Sussex than New Castle
- Attended 144 IEPs in the last quarter
- October is open enrollment for MCOs for Medicaid (effective January 1)

3. Committee Updates

- Kara (new DNEA program coordinator) will be attending all subcommittee meetings

Mental Health

- Next meeting is Oct 3 from 3-5pm
 - To attend: DSAMH, PBH, CDS, Nemours
- Will develop priorities for the new year
 - Discuss multilayered training approach
- Upcoming PBH training (October)

Childcare

- Main Issues: lack of system and procedures around expulsion; lack of training
 - Daycare providers are only required to have a policy- there are no set standards for content, system for accountability
 - Ann Phillips- may have some data around this issue
- Delaware Early Childhood Council meeting
 - Autism DE gave public testimony: parents should have a way to report around expulsion, non-admittance
- Potential policy work to be done/ recommendations

- Working on developing a training for childcare providers- to be out by the end of the month
 - DNEA to develop
 - Needs to be quality approved (review board will meet in January)
- Michelle Campbell (provider is interested in collaborating)
- Mary Moore- pull in mental health consultants
- Delaware Early Childhood Council Meeting

Education

- HB 292 was signed on August 29th- big thanks to Autism DE for their hard work
 - Ensuring all students receive autism services in their home district and their teachers/educators receive training
 - DAP statewide director position is open; Vince will most likely be brought in as a consultant
- Committee met 4 times over the summer
- DNEA collaborating with HB 292 (DAP, DOE)
 - Development of logic model and needs assessment to go out to districts to determine priorities (readiness, interest, need)- will be going out in a few weeks
 - Development of tiered training and PD trainings
 - Intensive coaching model
 - More intensive trainings will not start until January
 - Hope that additional trainers could be added using HB 292 funds
- Additions from ICA members
 - If districts are not deemed 'ready' an action plan should be created for them, given tools, etc.
 - Process should be outlined for the districts
 - Family ambassador should be identified for each district
- Challenges: need to have a comprehensive/systemic approach while also addressing current requests for support
 - DNEA has had multiple requests from districts for trainings, the discussion so far has been to hold off on these trainings
- Other: SPAC looking at the structure of statewide programs (i.e. Autism programs, DHH, VI)- where they are housed, equitable funding
 - Discussed need for the structure, review processes, etc. to be the same

Other

- Discussion of creating an evaluation/diagnosis subcommittee

4. DNEA Updates

Staffing

- Staffing: 3 full time staff of the DNEA- Kellene Copeland, Susan Veenema, Kara Downey (new program coordinator)

- Program Coordinator role: main liaison to the ICA, attend subcommittee meetings, ensure flow of information re: DNEA, ICA, statewide/community, managing training logistics, conduction training, resource dissemination, website development
 - Feel free to reach out with ideas of ways to keep everyone informed
- Continuing to search for a director
 - Brian Hall (Autism DE) now on the search committee
 - Weekly meetings with UD recruitment is occurring: proactive, targeted outreach, increased advertising
 - To consider: UD will be launching a search for 2 faculty positions for individuals with expertise in Autism: 1 position will be 50% tract faculty (UD School of Education/ 50% CDS)
 - Do we want to consider this candidate for the DNEA position?
 - What are the outcomes we think the DNEA director can do with 50% of their time?
 - Kara will send survey to ICA voting members to gather consensus
 - Note the search for a FULL time director will continue simultaneously
 - Concerns:
 - Would not start until Fall 2019
 - Candidate may not have the practical leadership experience
 - Serving a dual role could will person in other direction
 - Do not want to eliminate the need for a full time director
 - Other items to note:
 - Will ICA members be part of the search committee for the 50% faculty member?
 - Need to understand the process if the ICA feels the 50% director is not working for the DNEA
 - Need to understand the root cause of staffing issue: i.e. why has this position been open so long?- potential changes to the job description?
 - Is support from legislators needed?

Subcontractors

- New subcontract with Nemours: 2 psychologists (1 day a week each)
 - Emily Bernabe: expanding mental health practitioner training; expanding parent training models in ABC clinic (currently families downstate do not have access)
 - Ashley Dubin: school related trainings; district intensive work; designing a series on evaluation

Training

- To save time in future meetings: DNEA staff will send out brief summaries of the completed trainings and a list of upcoming trainings and ensure
 - Will contact Autism DE for their training updates

Completed Trainings

Education Boot Camp: 5 trainings were conducted; 230 attendance

- Understanding Autism session; 3 sessions on classroom strategies
- Outstanding feedback: 3.8/4 on satisfaction; tremendous growth on application results
- Additional training was offered 9/6 for PD day
- Webinar: potential follow up for participants (stay connected, provide additional application for in the classroom)

Upcoming trainings

- Will have 4 or 5 larger, statewide trainings this year (DNEA will put on calendar)
- AAC TA: Richard Lytton (DNEA, SLP)
 - Purpose is to support persons who are working with individuals who use assistive technologies; make sure AAC devices are being utilized and the team has the appropriate skills; skills are transferred; available for all ages
 - Offers onsite visits, video conferencing
 - Designed as a team approach (ie. Bring in parents, educators, paras, etc.)
 - Online request for prepared for appointments
 - Evaluation and outreach
 - Refer to DATI when needed

5. ICA Surveys

Priorities Survey

- Blueprint was used to identify priorities: member agencies ranked list from 1-5
- A total of 10 surveys were received
- List what was identified---
 - Some are repeats
- Next step: continue with priorities from last year
 - Have follow up conversation to reach a consensus regarding non-repeat priorities that were identified
- In the future: do we need to change priorities every year?
 - 3 years and reassess?

Wilder Survey

- Will do on a yearly basis
- Ranked on a 5 point scale (less than 3= needs work; more than 4= area of strength)
- Areas to improve: appropriate pace of development; sufficient funds/staff/materials/time; development of clear roles and policy guidelines
 - Get brainstorming about ideas for growth and resources available

6. Annual Report

- Will have out for ICA review this week
- Edits and comments due by 9/28

7. ICA policies and procedures

- Identified needs:
 - Bylaws to govern the ICA/ meeting rules
 - Better understanding of the role of the ICA within the DNEA
 - I.e. SB 93, line 25: “provide oversight for and development of goals for the ICA”
 - Better understanding of the role of the ICA as a unit
- Next steps:
 - Option for a full day retreat for ICA members to contribute to bylaw development and group functionality
 - Sometime before Thanksgiving
 - Rita, Jerry P- suggested facilitators